February 2026
Issue 3

Are you passionate about art & community? Welcome to:

# ROOTS

a free zine project based in Madison, Wisconsin

Our purpose?—to raise awareness, lift spirits, & elevate voices in a time of chaos & confusion.

created by people, for people

**connect • community • care**

**contribute • create**

@roots_madison on Instagram

**The Dane County Homeless Justice Initiative is looking for donations of winter supplies for our houseless neighbors.**

**Donation Requests:**

- Gloves
- Hats
- Scarves
- Long Underwear
- Long Shirts
- Large coats
- Hand/footwarmers
- Winter sleeping bags
- First aid kits
- Non-perishable foods
- Water, Liquid IV
- Gift cards (grocery, Walmart, Target, convenience stores, restaurants)

**Where to Donate:**

- **A Room of One's Own**
2717 Atwood Avenue
Madison, WI
- **MOKA**
5227 University Avenue
Madison, WI
- **Beans n Cream**
1220 W. Main Street
Sun Prairie, WI

DANE COUNTY HOMELESS JUSTICE INITIATIVE

## EVENTS

- Orchid Escape • 1/31-3/8, 10-4, Olbrich Gardens
Groundhog Prognostication • 2/2 @ 7am, Cannery Square, Sun Prairie
- Winter Carnival • 2/5-2/7, UW Memorial Union
- Watershed Reading Series • 2/21 @ 7pm, Arts + Literature Laboratory
- Queer & Trans Open Mic • 2/25 @ 7pm, Room of One's Own

## ELEVATING VOICES

Reports of force & violence at the hands of ICE are at an all-time high. 2025 was ICE's deadliest year in over 2 decades, with at least 32 people killed in detainment. 4 more people were killed in the first 10 days of 2026. 73,000 people are held in detention by ICE as of January 2026, almost 75% of whom have no criminal record. Keith Porter was killed by an off-duty ICE agent on New Year's Eve. Madison held protests on 1/9 for Renee Good & 1/25 for Alex Pretti, both who were killed by ICE during peaceful protest. Protecting our community from ICE is critical; raids disproportionately target marginalized communities, including shelters & encampments, people of color, low-income neighborhoods, & more. Look out for yourself & your neighbors.

## RESOURCES

rootszine.carrd.co/#ice-out
or scan the QR code on the back cover.

## WISCONSIN IN WINTER



A blast of Arctic air hit Wisconsin last month, with temps dropping to -40° F, low enough to cause frost cracks: sometimes called exploding trees. Freezing sap and water expands, creating enough pressure to split apart the wood & make a loud 'BANG', but not to truly explode.



# DEAR READER,

We have the power to create change. Even in moments that seem hopeless. Our community gathered in January with massive donations for houseless neighbors, providing life-saving supplies and warm rooms during the polar vortex; at the same time, up to 50,000 people in Minneapolis joined to protest ICE invasion in -30°F weather. Your voice is a powerful tool—don't underestimate it, especially when you think no one is listening. There are limitless ways to express yourself: art, music, social media, volunteering, demonstrations & protests, writing & publishing, & so much more. This month, I encourage you to speak out for what matters to you. Conversation sparks movement, and movement sparks change. Never forget that your voice matters. **You matter.**

**Love,**
**Your friends & neighbors at ROOTS.**

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

February is Black History Month. Each year, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History chooses a theme to draw focus to, with the intent to teach an inclusive & accurate history as well as to celebrate black power, people, & achievements. 2026's theme— A Century of Black History Commemorations—recalls the foundation of the month's history, which began in 1926. In Madison, you can:

**READ** Madison Public Library's monthly African American Culture Newsletter & Book Lists, The SoulFolk Collective, The Black Voice, UMOJA Magazine, Madison 365.

**VISIT** The Center For Black Excellence & Culture; the Dzigbodi Akyea Art Show at the Madison College Art Gallery (2/2-2/27); the Wisconsin Historic Society; the Black Heritage Celebration at Madison's Children Museum (2/19, 4-8pm); the Minding My Black-Owned Business Pop-Up Shop at River Park Neighborhood Center (2/21, 12-3pm).

**EAT AT** David's Jamaican, Cafe Coda, House of Flavas, Kingdom Restaurant, Keur Fatou Catering, Melly Mel's Soul Food, Les Delices de Awa, Cafe Costa Rica, Moneecia's Kitchen, & Buraka Ethiopian Restaurant.




She Carried Us by Deseré Mayo